

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0262

INFO USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 3782

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 9945

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2, LINE 1)

(USUN TAKE FOR 1ST TIME)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN AU

SUBJECT: GOA VIEWS ON ELECTION OF NEXT UN SECRETARY GENERAL

1. I SAW FONMIN PAHR TODAY (DECEMBER 2) AT HIS REQUEST REGARDING ELECTION OF NEXT UN SECRETARY GENERAL WHICH SCHEDULED BEGIN DECEMBER 3. PAHR INDICATED THAT WHILE GOA WAS CONFIDENT THAT WALDHEIM WOULD BE EVENTUALLY REELECTED THERE WAS SOME GOA CONCERN THAT ELECTION MANEUVERING RELATING TO HIS RELECTION MIGHT CONVEY FALSE IMPRESSION THAT WALDHEIM OWED HIS RECONFIRMATION IN OFFICE LARGELY TO USSR HELP. FOR OPTICAL REASONS GOA WOULD CLEARLY LIKE TO AVOID THIS DEVELOPMENT, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

2. ACCORDING TO PAHR, AUSTRIANS ANTICIPATE THAT FIRST ROUND OF VOTING WILL BE INCONCLUSIVE. USSR AND PRC WILL PROBABLY CAST NEGATIVE VOTES AGAINST THIRD WORLD CANDIDATE (ECHEVERRIA) AND WALDHEIM RESPECTIVELY. SUCH DEADLOCK IN SECURITY COUNCIL COULD ENCOURAGE OTHER PERSONALITIES FROM LDCS TO OFFER THEMSELVES AS SERIOUS CANDIDATES. REPEATED VOTES MIGHT THEN BECOME NECESSARY WITH USSR CONTINUOUSLY BLOCKING CANDIDATES FROM LDCS UNTIL WALDHEIM REELECTED. FROM AUSTRIAN VIEWPOINT SUCH
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STRUGGLE WHEN FINALLY RESOLVED, WOULD BE BAD OPTICALLY

SINCE IT WOULD SUGGEST RENEWAL OF SECRETARY GENERAL'S
MANDATE MADE ONLY POSSIBLE THANKS TO VETOES OF USSR.

3. PAHR NOTED THAT USG IS NO DOUBT ALSO COGNIZANT OF
POSSIBLE VOTING SCENARIO AS RELATED ABOVE AND ADVERSE
IMPACT SUCH SCENARIO MIGHT HAVE ON AUTHORITY AND PRESTIGE
OF INCOMBENT SECRETARY GENERAL. PAHR CONCLUDED WITH
EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT WESTERN MEMBERS OF SECURITY
COUNCIL, PARTICULARLY PERMANENT MEMBERS, COULD IN EFFECT
DEVELOP SCENARIO WHICH WOULD COUNTER WHAT FELT TO BE
SOVIET GAME PLAN.

4. I INDICATED THAT GOA VIEWS ON SUBJECT WOULD BE
CONVEYED EXPEDITIOUSLY TO WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK, THAT
USG WAS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT ELECTING BEST AVAILABLE
CANDIDATE TO OFFICE OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL, AND THAT
U.S. MISSION IN NEW YORK HAS NO DOUBT BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH
WITH OTHER FRIENDLY MISSIONS, INCLUDING PROBABLY AUSTRIANS,
CONCERNING APPROPRIATE TACTICS REGARDING ELECTION PROCEDURE.
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